

Emergency Communications/E-911/Medical Quality Assurance

As the population increases, the number of calls for assistance have increased an average of 8% per year over the last five years. Legislation requires that all 911 systems provide location information for wireless 911 calls. To meet this mandate, existing wireless equipment for all of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Seminole County's 911 System must be updated. This past year, we contracted with a consultant to assist with compliance with Wireless Phase II requirements. We anticipate these services will be required for a total of three years to insure all mandates are met. A position will be added in FY 2001/2002 to coordinate the mapping program associated with wireless legislation and to serve as technical support for the Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch System.

Emergency Management

Cameras and equipment for SGTV broadcasting were installed in the Emergency Operations Center this past year. This equipment not only allows for the broadcasting of information during emergency operations, it also provides for audiovisual conferencing with the State Division of Emergency Management and other emergency operation centers throughout the State. Through grant funds, we are providing window and door wind protection for our public school shelters. To date, two schools have been completed, with three currently underway. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training equips volunteers to respond to significant events in the community and assist until local government arrives.

EMS/Fire/Rescue Division

The past year was another successful one for the EMS/Fire/Rescue Division. Three fire stations were renovated to bring them in compliance with ADA standards and to add room for physical fitness / training equipment. Replacement apparatus was added to the fleet to provide up to date equipment for alarm response. Extensive training was addressed during the year including pre-hospital trauma life support training provided to the entire

organization. The Division's use of technology includes use of thermal imagers at fire scenes for detecting victims and hidden fires, a computerized staffing system for tracking personnel, and fax machines and cost effective telephone lines in the fire stations to facilitate communications. With our partners in our unique "1st Response System", the Division enhanced safety at alarm scenes by implementing and practicing procedures to prevent accidents and injuries. Our response insures that the closest units of the type needed for an emergency are dispatched. Our EMS transport program continued to work well generating over one million dollars in revenue, while delivering quality customer service. At Station 43, Chuluota, we began staffing a Rescue unit to provide more response capability to that growing area.

In the coming year we will be working with the Communications Division to acquire a new computer aided dispatch system and an enhanced 911 "wireless" call location identification system. Due to the explosive growth in the northwest portion of the County, we are proposing a new fire station facility to serve the area.

Animal Services Division

This past year brought some significant enhancements to our services such as the agreement with a veterinarian to provide rabies vaccinations to all outgoing animals. In an effort to increase the sterilization compliance rate for animals adopted from the shelter, Animal Sterilization fees were revised. Also initiated was a pilot program which set aside funding to provide animals for adoption at no cost to the elderly, disabled, and rescue groups. This program will also be monitored to evaluate community need and participation. Animal Services has and will continue to promote a strong education program through SGTV, school programs, shelter tours and our web site.